

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An apparatus for removing frangible members from an acid processing tank ~~a container~~, comprising:

a crushing assembly adapted for positioning inside the tank ~~container~~, said crushing assembly comprising a means for breaking the frangible members into fragments; and

a guiding chute mounted in secure attachment with said crushing assembly for guiding the fragments toward a removal conduit.

Claim 2 (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said crushing assembly comprises a drive unit, a gear assembly operationally connected to said drive unit, and a plurality of rotatable crushing strikers operationally connected to said gear assembly for imparting a breaking force on said frangible members.

Claim 3 (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said gear assembly comprises a pair of gear wheels connected by a driven chain, and wherein said crushing strikers are connected to one of said gear wheels.

Claim 4 (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said drive unit is adapted for connection to a power source.

Claim 5 (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a crushing assembly housing, said housing enclosing at least said crushing strikers.

Claim 6 (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said housing is fixedly attached to said guiding chute, and wherein a guiding opening is defined by a lower portion of said guiding chute, said guiding opening being located adjacent to said crushing strikers.

Claim 7 (original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said crushing strikers are sized to facilitate movement of the fragments into said guiding opening.

Claim 8 (original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said guiding chute comprises upwardly extending sidewalls and an inclined bottom wall, a lower end of said bottom wall defining a portion of said guiding opening.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said housing is provided with a means for suspending the crushing assembly inside said tank ~~container~~.

Claim 10 (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said guiding chute is sized and shaped for connection to a vacuum source.

Claims 11 – 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new) An apparatus for removing frangible ceramic packing members from an acid processing tank, comprising:

a crushing assembly adapted for positioning inside the tank, said crushing assembly comprising a means for breaking the packing members into fragments;

and

a guiding chute mounted in secure attachment with said crushing assembly for guiding the fragments toward a removal conduit.

Claim 22 (new) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said crushing assembly comprises a plurality of motor-driven rotatable crushing strikers contacting the packing members for imparting a breaking force on said packing members.

Claim 23 (new) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising a means for suspending said crushing assembly inside said tank upon demand.

Claim 24 (new) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said guiding chute is provided with an intake opening and wherein said strikers are sized to guide broken fragments of the packing members into the intake opening of the guiding chute.

Claim 25 (new) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said guiding chute comprises an outlet opening adapted for connection to a vacuum source.